



ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

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Sean Brown, Commissioner
Vermont Department for Children and Families
280 State Drive, HC 1 North
Waterbury, VT 05671

Dear Commissioner Brown:

The Office of Child Care has completed its review of the proposed amendments to Vermont's approved Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Plan for 2019-2021, with an initial submission of September 28, 2020 and a final submission of January 29, 2021.

This letter is to inform you that the following CCDF Plan amendments were approved.

- **Section 3.1.3 – Income Eligibility** – Amended to reflect new income guidelines and use of the 2021 State Median Income guidelines, effective October 25, 2020.
- **Section 3.4.1 - Family Contribution to Payments** – Amended to reflect new income guidelines, effective October 25, 2020.
- **Section 4.3.1 – Setting Payment Rates** – Amended to reflect increase in the Lead Agency's payment rates for preschool and school age children, effective October 25, 2020.
- **Sections 5.3.2a, 5.3.2b, and 5.3.5 – Monitoring Enforcement Policies and Practices** – Amended to update the number of employed licensing staff conducting required annual inspections.

We acknowledge that revisions to citations were made in sections 5.2.1a, 5.2.1b, 5.2.2a6, 5.2.2a10, 5.2.2b, 5.2.3e10, and 5.2.5-10 to align with changes in Vermont Center Based Child Care and Preschool Programs licensing regulations effective September 1, 2020.

The following plan amendments were approved related to COVID-19:

- **Section 3.4.2 – Sliding Fee Scale for Child Care Services** – Amended to reflect that during the state declared emergency for COVID-19 the implementation of this provision is not yet complete. Approval of this amendment as per the waiver effective November 24, 2020. Please note, Vermont has still not met requirements for **Section 3.4.2 Sliding Fee Scale for Child Care Services** for your FY 2019-2021 CCDF Plan, and, therefore must still demonstrate compliance by September 30, 2021.

- **Section 4.4.1b – Equal Access** – Amended to reflect that during the state declared emergency for COVID-19 the implementation of this provision is not yet complete. Approval of this amendment as per the waiver effective November 24, 2020. Please note, Vermont has still not met requirements for **Section 4.4.1b Equal Access** for your FY 2019-2021 CCDF Plan, and, therefore must still demonstrate compliance by September 30, 2021.
- **Section 5.4.8(a) and (b)– Interstate Child Abuse and Neglect Registry Checks** – Amended to reflect that during the state declared emergency for COVID-19 interstate child abuse and neglect registry checks for new and existing providers are not yet complete. Approval of this amendment as per the waiver effective November 24, 2020. Please note, Vermont has still not met requirements for **Section 5.4.8(a) and (b) Interstate Child Abuse and Neglect Registry Checks** for your FY 2019-2021 CCDF Plan, and, therefore must still demonstrate compliance by September 30, 2021.
- **Section 5.4.9 – Provisional Employment**– Amended to reflect that during the state declared emergency for COVID-19 procedures for prospective staff to work provisionally until background checks are completed are not yet fully implemented. Approval of this amendment as per the waiver effective November 24, 2020. Please note, Vermont has still not met requirements for **Section 5.4.9 Provisional Employment** for your FY 2019-2021 CCDF Plan, and, therefore must still demonstrate compliance by September 30, 2021.

The effective dates of September 1, 2020, October 25, 2020, and November 24, 2020 for these amendments to the Vermont CCDF Plan are noted on the amendments log within the ACF-118 electronic submission site.

If you have any questions or need further assistance, please feel free to contact Shireen Riley, Child Care Program Manager in our Boston Regional Office at 617-565-1152 or shireen.riley@acf.hhs.gov.

We appreciate your efforts to meet the child care needs of eligible families in Vermont and look forward to our continued partnership in the administration of your Child Care and Development Fund Program.

Sincerely,

Ellen C. Wheatley, Ph.D.
Deputy Director
Office of Child Care

cc: Melissa Riegel-Garrett, Policy Director
Anne Rada, Child Care Financial Assistance Program Administrator
Shireen Riley, OCC Regional Program Manager, Region 1
Dawn Ramsburg, Regional Liaison, Office of Child Care